

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1235  
By Hackworth

A RESOLUTION to commend Marjorie Wattenbarger Phillips for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as an employee of the University of Tennessee Anderson County Extension Service Office.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Marjorie Wattenbarger Phillips is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure of thirty-four years with the Anderson County Extension Service Office, Mrs. Phillips has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, a 1966 graduate of Roane County High School, she was Salutatorian of her class and completed a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from the University of Tennessee in 1970 and a Master of Science in Extension Education from that fine institution in 1976; and

WHEREAS, soon after completing her bachelor's degree, she began her "first job" at the UT Anderson County Extension Service Office on July 1, 1970; little did she know that she would find a professional fit so perfect for herself and for her community that she would spend more than three decades serving the people of Anderson County; and

WHEREAS, beginning as an Assistant Home Agent, she quickly earned the respect and admiration of her peers and her community and was promoted to Adult Home Economist to succeed the retiring Angie Fugate; upon the retirement of E.F. "Red" Ivens in 1978, she became Extension Leader, one of very few women in the state to hold that title in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, she has thrived in that position, now known as Extension Director, ever since and over the years, she has served Anderson County in a number of areas; and

WHEREAS, as an Extension educator in family and consumer sciences, she has maintained an estimable emphasis on lifelong learning and motivating others to use empirically proven information to become more healthy, productive, financially secure, and environmentally responsible members of society; and

WHEREAS, as the agent responsible for Family Community Education Clubs, she has taught invaluable homemaking skills, trained volunteers, and provided numerous other educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, as a 4-H agent, she initiated teen leadership training, helped judging teams win state awards, and inspired members to improve their skill sets in many areas; and

WHEREAS, she has accomplished so much by using an impressive array of educational and promotional strategies and developing and using a strong network of professionals and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, under Mrs. Phillips' leadership, the Extension Office has come to be known for the unsurpassed quality of its professionalism and customer service; and

WHEREAS, Marjorie Phillips has received numerous accolades in recognition of her professional excellence, including awards for National Distinguished Service, National Communications, and National Continued Excellence, as well as the State Mid-Career Extension Awards; and

WHEREAS, she is a true leader in her field, having served as President of the Tennessee Extension Home Economists Association, District Extension Epsilon Sigma Phi, and Knox Area Home Economists Association; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Leadership Oak Ridge Class of 1990, her wisdom and guidance are in high demand, and she has also applied her time and talent as a member of Anderson County's Fair Advisory Board, America's Promise Advisory Board, Head Start Council, Children's Advocacy Network Advisory Board, Chamber of Commerce, and Success by Six Leadership Coalition for the Quality Child Care Initiative; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Mrs. Phillips cherishes the love and companionship of her husband of thirty-four years, Ronnie Ewing Phillips, and is the proud and devoted mother of Jason and Darryl and his wife, Jennifer; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, she is an active member of Clinton First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Marjorie Phillips is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Phillips' remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, she is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Marjorie Wattenbarger Phillips for her thirty-four years of honorable and astute service to the University of Tennessee Extension Service in Anderson County, thank her for her many positive contributions that have made her community a better place to live, and wish her much continued success and happiness in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.